

# MOSACK'S

Church Goods & Religious Gifts



## LIVING OUT THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

### A Prayer for the New Year

Another fresh new year is here  
Another year to live!  
To banish worry, doubt, and fear,  
To love and laugh and give!

This bright new year is given me  
To live each day with zest  
To daily grow and try to be  
My highest and my best!

I have the opportunity  
Once more to  
right some wrongs,  
To pray for peace,  
to plant a tree,  
And sing more joyful song!

William Arther Ward (1921-1994)

We all know that **“Jesus is the Reason for the Season”** but how often do we think about what Jesus’ birth means for us the rest of the year? The Catechism of the Catholic Church offers several reasons that Jesus was born into a human family. Here are three lessons of his birth to guide you in the coming year:

**Jesus was born to teach us that God loves us no matter what.** God loves us so much that he

sent His Only Son, Jesus, to live among us, to endure suffering, die on the cross and rise from the dead. When times get rough, or those around you face difficulties remember that Jesus is there.

**Jesus was born to be a model of holiness in our daily lives.** His birth in a stable teaches us about humility; his teachings call us to care for the poor, the suffering, and the marginalized. His life calls us to be merciful, love

others and above all, to love God as *our* Father. Each time you pray the Lord’s Prayer remember God’s call to holiness.

**Jesus’ birth teaches us to see and respect the Divine Presence in ourselves and others.** We are born in the image and likeness of God and with that belief comes the obligation to love one another. Treat others as you wish to be treated. Love and respect yourself and treasure all those you encounter this year as members of God’s family

## NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTIONS TO CONSIDER

Make 2016 a time to grow in God’s grace and deepen your faith! Devotional Books with daily meditations and, inspirational prayers are a great way to start the new year. Pocket size books with day by day devotions are available in several different themes: healing, words of comfort, lives of the Saints, Mary, Joseph, excerpts from the bible and more. Choose the one that fits

your interest and keep it by your bedside.

Make some resolutions that improve your life style. Check out the Daniel Diet for a look at meals in biblical times, or exercise to the beat of Christian Fitness CD from Jack Heinzl.

Be merciful in 2016! Celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy by embracing friends and family with compassion and love. Celebrate the

Feast of the Epiphany by blessing your home with incense. Mark your doorpost as a reminder to extend God’s merciful love to all who enter your home in 2016. (*see the Blessing of Home page 2*)

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## JANUARY – Month for Prayer and Renewal

After the rush and business of the Christmas Season, it is good to take a respite and focus on “Ordinary Time”. As we head back to work, return to school, and take up our daily tasks, we have chance to focus on the basics. Let us consider what God is doing in Christ, what God is doing in us, and what God is doing through our faith in Christ in the Church and in the world.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** begins Sunday, Jan 17<sup>th</sup> through Jan 24<sup>th</sup>. Reach out to your neighboring parishes and pray for a world-wide return to Christian values.

**Martin Luther King Day**, Jan 18<sup>th</sup> reminds us all to look upon one another with brotherhood and understanding.

Thursday Jan 21<sup>st</sup> is a **Day of Penance for Violations to the Dignity of the Human Person and Prayer for the Dignity of Life**. Check your local church and Right to Life centers for holy hours, prayer vigils, life-chains or other area activities in support of Respect Life.

**Catholic Schools Week**, Jan 24-30<sup>th</sup> challenges us to focus on learning and the importance of religious education.



### FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY HOME BLESSING:

*Peace be to this house and to all who dwell here, in the name of the Lord. God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ that our love for each other may go out to all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*Using chalk, write on the outside of your house, above or next to an entrance:*

**+20 C M B 16+**

*This stands for the first half of the current year (+20)*

*the Latin phrase **Christus Mansionem Benedicat** - May Christ Bless this House and/or the names of the 3 Kings **Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar** (C M B)*

*and the last half of the current year (16+)*

## CONGRATULATIONS FONTANINI RAFFLE WINNER!



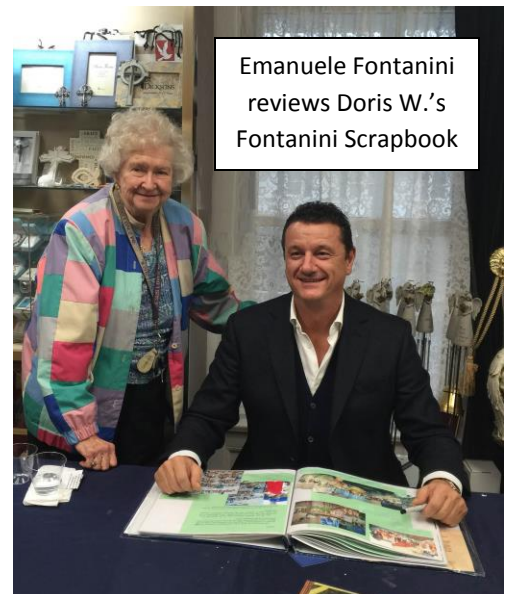
Congratulations to Nell G, Winner of MOSACK'S Fontanini 9 piece Heirloom Nativity Set (\$250. value). This year's Nativity Set was signed by Emanuele Fontanini making it extra special! A new tradition is begun with this keepsake!



Nativity Set Awarded



Emanuele greeting collectors



Emanuele Fontanini reviews Doris W.'s Fontanini Scrapbook

## Coming in February

Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, the **Feast of the Presentation of the Infant Jesus** in the Temple of Jerusalem, falls midway between the winter solstice and the spring. Churches bless and distribute candles on this day a sign of Jesus the True Light of the World.

On Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>, the **Feast of St. Blaise**, candles are used to bless throats and guard against illness. Legend records the miraculous cure of a choking child by the Bishop Blaise in the early years of the church.

**St. Agatha's** chastity and courage in martyrdom, is

commemorated on Feb 5<sup>th</sup>. Agatha is the patroness of women suffering from breast cancer and the patron saint of nurses.

**World Day of Prayer for the Sick** occurs on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>. Mary appeared to Bernadette in 1858 as the Immaculate Conception.

**Valentine's Day** on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> is a time to remember all couples and the blessings of marriage.

Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> is **Presidents Day**. Wave the flag and show your patriotism!

## Lent Begins EARLY! - Feb 10, 2016



*"Repent and Believe in the Gospel!"*

***"The word LENT comes from an Old English term that means "springtime". Like the new life that bursts forth each spring, Lent***

***calls us to renew our life in Christ and look to the Resurrection.***

Just as the gardener prepares the soil, sows the seed, and waters the earth to bring forth growth, so we need to prepare our souls for the Easter celebration. Let us embrace the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during the six weeks of Lent as we await the Resurrection. Look to the scriptures to hear Christ's message:

**PRAYER:** "Rejoice always.

Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus" (1Thes 5:16-18)

**FASTING:** "When you fast. Do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward." (Matthew 6:16)

**ALMSGIVING:** "For I was hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed

me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me." (Matt 25:35-36)

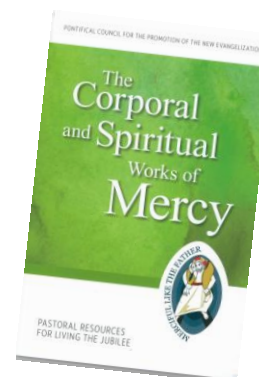
Find ways to connect with nature. Plant seeds of faith by reflecting on scripture, praying the Way of the Cross, and sharing the blessings of the season with those less fortunate. Let God work wonders in your life!

## BOOK REVIEW: The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

Sacred Scripture is the mirror of how mercy is expressed. Through the bible we find Jesus asking us to follow him by identifying with and showing compassion to people most in need. The Corporal and Spiritual Works Of Mercy outlines the foundations of mercy as presented in scripture

and then delves deeper into each of the works of mercy to enliven our commitment to our sisters and brothers. This book is one a series of eight volumes, the official catechetical resource for the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The series is created by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New

Evangelization at the request of Pope Francis. Each book is about 65-70 pages long, perfect for study groups. Other books in the series cover The Sacrament of Confession, The Teachings of the Popes, the Church Fathers, and Mercy in Psalms, Parables, and the Lives of the Saints. For a selection of Year of Mercy resources visit [www.mosacks.com](http://www.mosacks.com).





## WHAT IS A JUBILEE YEAR?

In the Roman Catholic tradition, a Holy Year is a great religious event, held roughly every 25 years, for the forgiveness of sins and the punishment due to sin, the last one was in 2000. Pope Francis has called for an *Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy* to be held Dec 8, 2015 through Nov 20, 2016.

This Jubilee is a year of reconciliation between adversaries, an opportunity for conversion and a time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Consequently, it is a time of solidarity, hope, justice and commitment to serve God with joy and in peace with our brothers and sisters. A Jubilee Year is above all the year of Christ who brings life and grace to humanity.

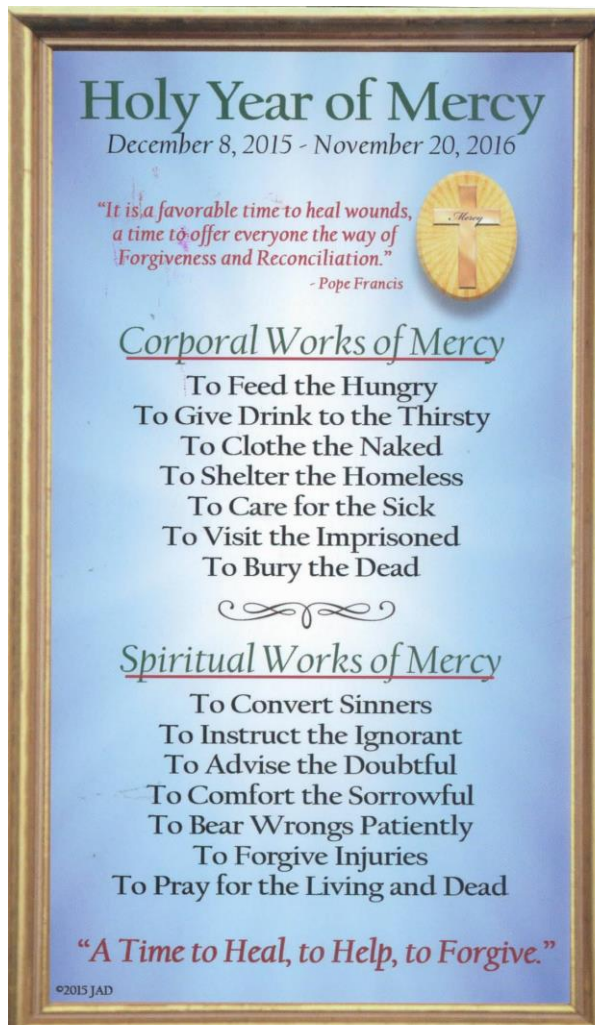
## WHY DID POPE FRANCIS CALL THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY?

By calling for the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has underscored the signature message of his pontificate: MERCY. ***“Here then is the reason for the Jubilee: because this is the time for mercy. It is the favorable time to heal wounds, a time not to be weary of meeting all those who are waiting to see and to touch with their hands the signs of the closeness of God, a time to offer everyone the way of forgiveness and reconciliation.”*** (homily April 11, 2015)

Mercy is Pope Francis’ answer to evil. The limit imposed on evil is ultimately the mercy of God. We are challenged to make this year a time of healing, forgiveness and building bridges of love. ***“Merciful like the Father”*** is the motto for the Jubilee Year. It comes from Luke 6:36 “Be merciful just as your Father is merciful.” Consider the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy (see insert to the left) as your guide to living the coming year.

It is the Holy Father’s belief that the present age is an opportune moment of grace and mercy. This is also the message transmitted by St. Faustina Kowalska and devotion to Divine Mercy. In her Diary, St Faustina writes of what Jesus revealed to her ***“I am prolonging the time of mercy for the sake of sinners. But woe to them if they do not recognize this time of My visitation”. (1160) Before the Day of Justice, I am sending the Day of Mercy. (1588) He who refuses to pass through the door of My mercy must pass through the door of My justice. (1146)***

Let us open our hearts and minds to the celebration of this extraordinary Year of Mercy in our homes, our families, our communities and our churches. Read and study the Word of God, perform works of mercy, reconcile with one another and above all pray for an outpouring of Divine Mercy.



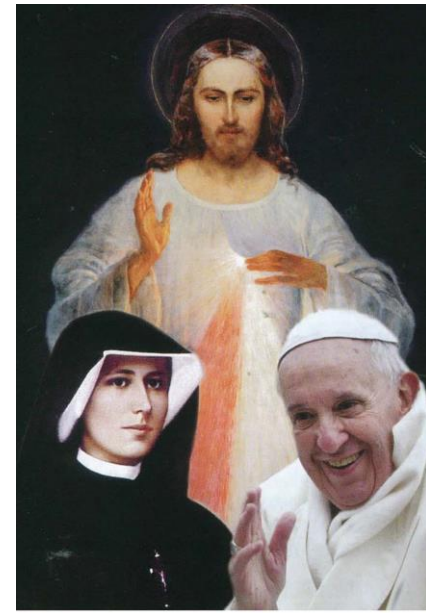


## POPE FRANCIS' JUBILEE PRAYER FOR THE YEAR OF MERCY

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved. Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief. Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.. We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever Amen.



## PILGRIMAGE AND HOLY DOORS

Traditionally, many pilgrims travel to Rome during Holy Years to pass through the Holy Doors of the major basilicas. These special doors are open only during Jubilee years. The faithful can also travel churches or shrines under the patronage of Jesus and Mary, such as the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, MA or the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC. Opportunities for youth include a pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow, Poland. Holy Doors will be open in cathedrals and particular local churches throughout the world. Pope Francis has granted the local bishops an option of designating particular shrine visited by large numbers of the faithful to also have a Holy Door.

Every diocese throughout the world will celebrate the 24 Hours for the Lord initiative to foster access to the Sacrament of Reconciliation on the Friday and Saturday preceding the fourth week of Lent. Churches are encouraged to hold missions and bible studies to emphasize Divine Mercy. Check with your local parish for further information.

## Checklist for the Jubilee Year:

- Forgive those who have hurt you, bury grudges and forgive the wrongs done to you. If possible, consider forgiving debts owed you and/or returning collateral.
- Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, especially if it has been a long time--- go regularly, monthly or even weekly.
- Read and meditate on the Word of the Lord in Sacred Scripture, especially the Gospel of Luke,
- Perform one or more of the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy every day. *(see list on page 4)*
- Enter a Holy Door within your local community or go on a pilgrimage to one of the holy sites
- Pray Pope Francis' Jubilee Prayer and share the Good News of God's Mercy through your words and deeds.
- Make the Stations of the Cross regularly and thank Jesus for his suffering, death, and resurrection,
- Become Familiar with St Faustina and the Divine Mercy revelations. Celebrate the 3:00 Hour of Great Mercy and pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy daily imploring mercy "on us and on the whole world."

## CONFIRMATION GIFTS

MOSACK'S carries a wide selection of Patron Saint medals, statues, biographies and holy cards perfect for Confirmation Students and RCIA Candidates. Visit us online at [www. mosacks.com](http://www.mosacks.com) for a look at our selection of Confirmation Gifts.



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